

User Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Date: 02/01/2022

Attendees: James Van Wyck, Gearóid Ó Faoleán, Julie Sullivan, Natia Putkaradze, Michael Downs, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Mike Thicke, Bonnie Russell

Advance Regrets: Dr. Mayank Trivedi, Mary Dockray-Miller

- Introductions
- Director's Update
 - Recently received grants from NEH and the Mellon Foundation. Allows us to expand the Commons. Bring new people to the team. In particular two new community focused positions - User Engagement Specialist, Community Management Specialist. Also two new technical positions - Infrastructure Developer and Identity Management Specialist.
 - Expanding to social sciences and STEM, expanding the network.
 - Thinking about the affordances the network provides, how to serve the needs of STEM and social sciences researchers.
 - Looking forward to discussing what the community needs and how we can address those interests.
- Overview of the Commons
- What does HC look like in 1 year, 5 years?
 - Central hub where anyone can work collaboratively. Anyone can engage in multiple disciplinary hubs. Will have a single profile that spans all of the Commonses.
 - Would like to have disciplinary Commonses up in a year, see expansion to another University, other scholarly societies.
 - In 5 years:
 - Would like to see a community that has grown significantly in user base and participating organizations. Have reached the point of financial sustainability.
 - Users can see new development as it is happening, feel like they have input in the direction of the Commons.
 - A team and a platform that are sustainable and nimble.
 - The HC privacy policy: <https://hcommons.org/privacy/>
- Upcoming things on the Roadmap
 - Implementation of FAST metadata subjects for CORE deposits
 - Working on accessibility and usability of the site.
- Opportunities for involvement:
 - Policies
 - Deposits that fall outside of our traditional sphere?
 - Deposits that don't necessarily fit within the humanities have been deposited and approved

- Where is the line of acceptability? Eg. Astrology, COVID misinformation.
(<https://team.hcommons.org/2021/08/25/misinformation-and-the-commons/>)
- How do we stay open to a wide range of people beyond the traditional academy?
 - K-12 teachers
 - Students posting work
 - Deposits in languages other than English
- Don't want to shut down people coming from a background that is not as formalized.
- Examples of people who were at the verges of the academy. Err on the side of admittance, but do need to have a system.
- First-time depositors get reviewed for metadata and file standards. Subsequently deposits are automatically approved. So we are already relying on users to alert us to non-conforming content.
- We do not have an easy way for users to flag content as inappropriate. Should look into creating the ability of users to flag deposits.
- Networking
 - Talk about the ways in which we'd like to connect.
 - User advisory group members as ambassadors for the Commons.
 - Introductions to others in the community who are interested in getting involved. Connect them with us.
 - Bringing on societies and organizations. Necessary to keep the platform free for everyone. Make connections between us and organizations that might want to join us.
- User testing
 - Early feedback about redesign of the site
- Past Commons highlights are available are on <https://team.hcommons.org>. Can suggest other highlights to us.
- Suggestion: a profile that makes clear why the Commons is the place to be rather than Academia.edu (eg.)